

**Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians
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Statement concerning

Proposed Bill 446 – An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage and Tort Reform

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

February 19, 2013

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians concerning Proposed Bill 446 – An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage and Tort Reform.

The stated purpose of this bill is to reduce the number of health care mandates and reform medical malpractice. Without more specific legislative language it is difficult to comment on this bill, however we feel as if we must urge this Committee to use extreme caution when attempting to reduce health insurance mandates. The legislature has found it necessary to enact certain health care mandates for the health and well-being of Connecticut residents including colorectal screening, minimum 48 hour stay after a mastectomy, equal treatment for mental illnesses and so much more.

In addition, we agree that real tort reform is needed. While with the help of the legislature some changes have been made over the past few years, the current system still does not work. Stronger reform including immunity for physicians providing pro bono work, safe harbors, and special health care courts are just a few of the reforms that will help keep well qualified physicians in the state and guarantee access to quality healthcare to Connecticut citizens.

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